

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

## Farmers Feeding Families – Coronavirus Response Act

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture:** “This bill addresses two of our highest concerns, outside of protecting from COVID-19: curbing food insecurity and supporting our life-sustaining agriculture industry,” said Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding. “To nourish those in need, we must nourish the industry that provides. We’re grateful for Senator Casey’s acknowledgement of the connection between the charitable food system and our farmers.”

**Feeding Pennsylvania:** “Feeding Pennsylvania is incredibly grateful to Senator Casey for introducing a bill that not only supports the needs of so many Pennsylvanians facing hunger during this unprecedented crisis, but also supports our local farmers,” said Jane Clements-Smith, executive director of Feeding Pennsylvania. “Giving our food bank additional funding to access to nutritious surplus products produced right here in Pennsylvania is a win-win for everyone.”

**Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture:** “PASA thanks Senator Casey for the introduction of the Farmers Feeding Families-Coronavirus Response Act. Many small family farms that sell direct to consumers and restaurants are struggling to survive. Getting farmers the support they need quickly helps them get food to those who need it quickly.” - Hannah Smith Brubaker, Executive Director

**Center for Dairy Excellence:** “At a time when so many Pennsylvania families are in need, this bill would help ensure that our local farm families and the products they produce are able to assist with feeding hungry people. This has been something that we have seen as a need for some time, with the milk bidding system often resulting in milk coming from outside the state to fill Pennsylvania’s needs. This bill would ensure that we are helping both feed our families in need and support our local farmers who are also struggling.” – Jayne Sebright, Executive Director

**Feeding America:** “Feeding America applauds Representatives Schrier and McMorris-Rogers, and Senator Casey for proposing creative solutions to help connect excess food from growers and producers with food banks and other nonprofits at the state and local level. This proposal would be a strong addition to the other food purchase programs USDA has announced and help states ensure food from farmers that may not be able to participate in USDA purchases can be connected with communities in need.”

**National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:** “The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically disrupted daily life throughout the country, leaving millions struggling to feed themselves and their families. At the same time, farmers and ranchers who normally sell to restaurants, institutions, schools and through farmers markets have seen their markets disappear overnight resulting in fruits and vegetables left to rot in fields and orchards. The national emergency food procurement and distribution systems have been too slow to respond to the unprecedented crisis leaving farmers unable to feed families who are in great need. The Farmers Feeding Families Act is an innovative, local approach that empowers state governments to partner directly with small farmers and grassroots organizations to help farmers support families within their own communities and build a more resilient, regional food system.”